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September 19, 2006

Docket Management System

PHMSA Docket No. PHMSA-2006-25589 (HM-208F)

U.S. Department of Transportation

400 Seventh Street SW Nassif Building

Room PL-401

Washington, D.C. 20590-001

Re: Hazardous Materials Transportation; Registration and Fee Assessment Program, PHMSA Docket No. PHMSA-2006-25589 (HM-208F)

TO: The Secretary of the Department of Transportation United States of America Washington, DC

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l am writing to urge you to change your department's proposal to increase the <u>hazmat</u> registration fee. This is very important to my company because of all its negative impacts, and then there is the additional costs.

I am deeply concerned that the proposal to raise the registration fee will burden my company with additional costs without having any impact on safety.

Pelgas, Inc. is a retail distributor of propane gas supplying homes, farms and commercial establishments in southwest Iowa. We are pro-active in promoting safe delivery to our customers.

The DOT hazmat registration fee program has never been a very responsible program. First you collect fees you have no use for except to feather your department and now you are proposing an increase just because you think you should and no one is telling you no. Don't you have a conscience? We are real people running real businesses and trying to do it responsibly. I would appreciate it if you would try to act responsibly too.

Our industry has invested millions of dollars over the last decade to develop Propane Emergencies, and CETP, as well as other programs designed to increase safety of our workers and our customers. Forcing our industry to pay twice by sending millions of dollars more to DOT only penalizes our work. The industry has sent tens of thousands of copies of a detailed emergency response materials to every professional and volunteer fire company in the nation. We hold train-the-trainer sessions. We

have an excellent website. We reach out to our local fire departments. And what do we get in return? Nothing, except for a higher tax bill.

I don't mind complying with appropriate safety regulations. Indeed, I have done so for my entire career. However, I expect that this fee increase will have no real impact on safety. More likely, it will be good money spent without a real accounting for its use. Therefore, I urge you not to increase the fee.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Pllet

Sincerely,

Todd Pellett, President